

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1, 32 and 33 have been amended only to delete the unnecessary (and potentially confusing) recitation of the second display control unit and second display control step, and claims 5-7, 14-17, 20 and 21 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 23 has been amended only to delete the unnecessary (and potentially confusing) recitation of the first display control unit.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 20, 21, 23, 32 and 33 were again rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by previously cited US 2002/0140820 ("Borden"), and claims 11, 13 and 22 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Borden with one or more of previously cited US 2002/0033296 ("Rothmuller et al") and previously cited

USP 6,118,480 ("Anderson et al"). These rejections, however, are again respectfully traversed.

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner points out that Borden discloses in paragraphs [0018]-[0023] selecting and viewing one or more images according to how the user wishes to organize the viewing/grouping of images. The Examiner therefore asserts that the displaying of images in Borden can be limited by the user's preferences. In particular, the Examiner asserts that in Borden the number of photographed image data can be limited by a user choosing from a range of dates.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Fig. 1 and paragraph [0018] of Borden merely disclose that a particular thumbnail view 22 may be selected by the user for a particular group of files, or calculated by the system as the most representative file. And Fig. 1 of Borden merely discloses that, for example, one thumbnail view 22 is shown in the display area of T (Thursday; July 12, 2001), and two thumbnail views 22 are shown in the display area of S (Sunday; July 14, 2001). See paragraph [0021] of Borden.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, the number of photographed image data (from among all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area) to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area is limited to a

predetermined number, and according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, other photographed image data (that is from among the all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area and that is not included in the predetermined number) is displayed by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, thereby continuously displaying the other photographed image data in the selected display area.

That is, the apparatus, method and computer readable medium (program) of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33 creates a "slide show" of a predetermined number of photographed images within the selected display area, such that a first set of the predetermined number of photographed images are simultaneously displayed in the selected display area and then a second set of the predetermined number of photographed images (the "other photographed image data") are simultaneously displayed in the selected display area. For example, if the predetermined number is two and there are four photographed image data in the image group assigned to the selected display area, first two (first and second) of the photographed image data of the assigned four image data will be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, and then the display of the firstly displayed two of the photographed image data will be changed to

the other two (third and fourth) of the photographed image data. As a result, a "slide show" of all of the photographed image data in the image group assigned to the selected display area is achieved in a manner such that only the predetermined number of photographed images are simultaneously displayed within the selected display area.

It is respectfully submitted that Borden does not at all disclose or suggest limiting a number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in a selected display area (for example, Thursday or Sunday) as according to the claimed present invention. Indeed, as recognized by the Examiner, Borden discloses that the user can choose images to be displayed for a range of dates, and that one or two thumbnail images can be viewed for each of the selected dates. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Borden does not disclose limiting a number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in a given date in a manner such that (a first set of) the predetermined number of photographed images are simultaneously displayed and then (a second set of) other photographed image data of the predetermined number of photographed images are simultaneously displayed, as according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Borden also does not disclose or suggest the similar features of the present

invention as recited in independent claim 23 whereby the number of the photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group is limited to a predetermined number, and other photographed image data, from among all of the photographed image data included in each group and not displayed within the predetermined number of simultaneously displayed photographed image data, is displayed by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in each group, thereby continuously displaying on the display all of the other photographed image data included in each group.

Rothmuller et al and Anderson, moreover, have been merely cited with respect to the subject matter of the dependent claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Rothmuller et al and Anderson et al were combinable with Borden in the manner suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still not achieve or render obvious the above described features and effects of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33, and claims 2-7, 11-22, 24 and 25 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination consistent with the respective fair teachings thereof, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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